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Monitor kids' activities, avoid involvement in street politics: Analyst

KUALA LUMPUR: The positive participation of young people in the political arena can generate matured thinking and turn out sensible individuals, according to political analysts.

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) Political and International Studies lecturer Md Shukri Shuib said towards this end parents must monitor and guide their children against involvement in street politics.

He said parents must be aware of the activities of their children and always nurture them with a sense of responsibility to the nation and not overly aggressive when politicking.

"If the children are still staying with their families, parents must find out who their friends are to prevent them from being influenced and made use of via involvement in leftist politics.

"Monitoring by parents is crucial because children who take part in politics should become more matured individuals because it is the nature of politicians to be sensitive to current issues and involved in national development activities," he said.

On the role of parents in the involvement of students in politics, Md Shukri said parents should not have a 'hands-off' attitude by leaving it to the universities to mould their children to become useful human capital to the nation.

He said the feeling of being free of parental observations in a new surrounding with friends when furthering their studies at institutions of higher learning induces children to form their own idealism, as if their new life was more democratic compared to their life at home where parents ruled.

Taking the example of the young pro-opposition activist, Adam Adli Abd Halim, who

allegedly instigated the public to topple the government through street demonstrations, he said it was an act of self-promotion and to reap popularity.

He said parents too should not be obsessed with the politics of certain parties to prevent such attitudes from influencing the political understanding of their children.

Mohd Shukri said the right to participate in politics via the amendment to the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 (AUKU) should be exercised properly and not abused.

At the same time, Md Shukri also suggested that an association of parents and academicians be set up at universities to discuss and monitor the activities of students more effectively.

He said close relationships between academicians and parents of the students would directly change the perception that universities were owned by students and academicians only without the need for the parents' role.

Meanwhile, the principal of the Yayasan Guru Malaysia Berhad's (YGMB) Tuition Centre, Suhaimi Rashid, said the action of some youths who purportedly wanted to uphold their rights by giving talks which were instigative in nature to overturn the government would only bring calamity to them.

"Some of the youths involved in street politics and demonstrations are smart individuals academically but because they are influenced and are promised lucrative returns such as material rewards and posts, they act like uneducated buffoons.

"By right, they should be able to think wisely, do not act emotionally and use the right channel and never ever resort to street politics to voice their dissatisfaction," he added. -Bernama